



STATE OF INDIANA

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INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
INDIANA GOVERNMENT CENTER SOUTH
302 W. WASHINGTON ST., ROOM E208
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

Emergency Management Training Course Announcement

The IDHS Training Division will present the following course:

Disaster Mental Health for First Responders

Who Should Attend?

This course is designed for state and local officials who prepare for and respond to disasters and traumatic events of all kind. It is designed for those who want a greater understanding of the mental health response to assist both survivors and fellow responders.

Course Description

This **one day course** examines disaster mental health and the psychological first aid model that is now being widely used. The psychosocial reactions to disasters and trauma are recognized to be among the most enduring and debilitating outcomes of disasters. To respond effectively, responders need a full understanding of the psychosocial impact of disasters that is so prominent, pervasive and prolonged. It is now recognized that in a disaster, the size of the psychological impact greatly exceeds that of the medical impact on individuals, responders, and the community. Not only do responders need to fully understand this impact on those they are assisting, but they also need to understand the impact on the responders as they fulfill their roles. It is essential for the responder to remain effective and functional both during the response and afterwards.

This presentation will focus on the psychological first aid (PFA) model. PFA includes interventions with survivors and emergency responders that target immediate needs and acute stress reactions. This model is replacing previous intervention models and is becoming a national and international standard. PFA model development has been funded by the United States government and has already been adopted by a range of government supported disaster response organizations.

Topics to be covered in this course include:

1. Psychosocial consequences of disasters for survivors, communities, and responders
2. Identify ways to provide practical assistance to meet survivor and responder needs.
3. Core functions of Psychological First Aid
4. Guiding principles and strategies of Psychological First Aid
5. Identifying strategies for fostering resiliency and coping strategies
6. Self Care Awareness and Strategies for Emergency Responders
7. Self Care during and after the response

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Administrative Information

This course will be conducted on **August 29th, 2007 at the Emergency Management Training Academy, Grissom AFB, Peru, Indiana.** Student sign in will begin at 8:30 AM with the course scheduled from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. daily, with a one-hour break for lunch.

There is no charge for attending this course; students will be responsible for their own travel and meals. Refreshments will be provided. The Emergency Management Training Academy will provide lodging through direct billing arrangements with hotels that will be listed in the acceptance letter to be sent out upon registration for the course. No lodging is provided for students residing within 50 miles of the training location. Participants who reside over 50 miles from the training location are eligible for overnight lodging for courses which are more than one day in length. Only those participants who reside 75 miles or more from the training location are entitled to lodging the night before a course that begins at 9:00 A.M. Eligible students may call the Kokomo Hampton Inn, located at 2920 S. Reed Road, Kokomo, for lodging at 765-455-2900. **We have a block of rooms that will only be held until August 21st.** Please let the Hampton know you are with the IDHS group.

To register, please complete a training application which can be found at <http://www.in.gov/dhs/training/>. Upon completion of the training application, please forward it to this office per the instructions indicated on the form. Class size is limited and you will be notified via email of your acceptance in the course. **Registration is due August 21st** to allow time for the preparation of course materials.

Please circulate this training announcement to members of your emergency response community and other agencies, organizations or individuals having a role in emergency or disaster response.

If you have any questions regarding course registration, please contact Denise Clarke at (317) 234-4286 or declarke@dhs.in.gov.

Professionally,

Amy M. Lindsey
Manager
Emergency Management Training Branch